BENGALURU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com

Bangalore Mirror

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 81% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 65,401 | Nifty 19,434 | Gold 59,620 | Silver 72,800 | Dollar 82.95 | Euro 9 | P 105.20

CITY PAGE 6

On shaky ground

Residents of Doddanekundi are feeling the jolts of Metro construction going on

Plastic pledge

Days after BBMP bans plastic use at its events, it breaks its own rule

CITY PAGE 7

Gandhi Park was developed last year at the cost of ₹1 crore. With no electricity supply, the renovated space is not lit up and the Gandhi statue is enveloped in a cloak of darkness

DESPERATELY SEEKING GANDHI

Area built as space for people to hang out and interact, but most now avoid it after 7 pm

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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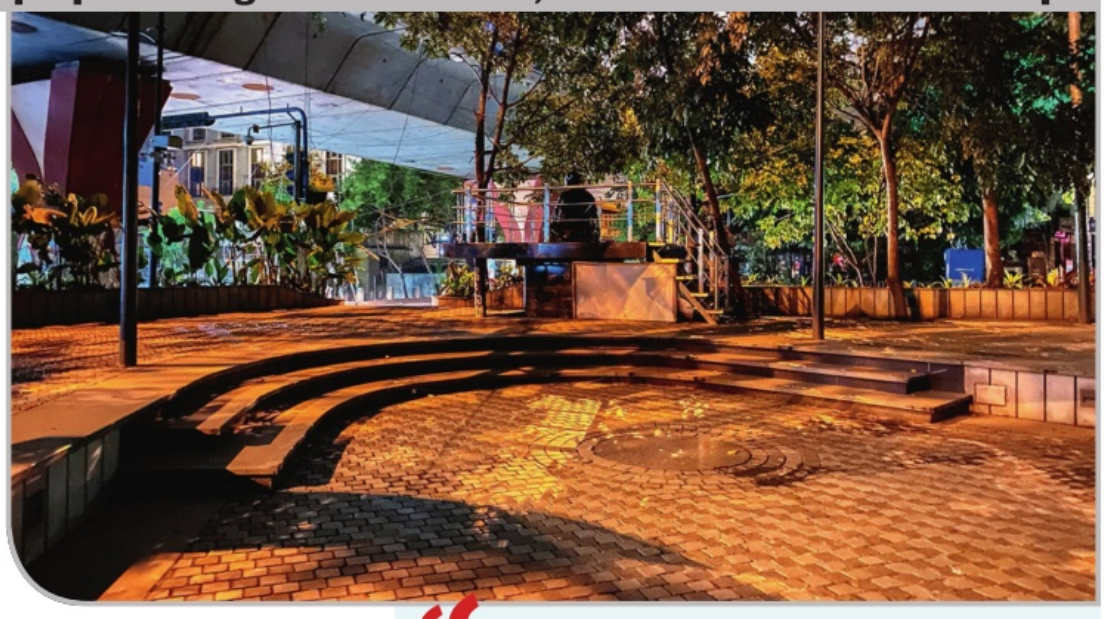
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



KAUSHIK JN

Gandhi Park that was known as a protest venue for all political parties, trade unions and social organisations till the ban on protests came into effect, is craving for the attention of the authorities. It was just last year that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) developed the Gandhi Park at an estimated cost of over Rs 1 crore.

The park was spruced up based on the concept of kattes (a space where people can sit and chat). Many people, including policemen who are posted at Maurya Circle, used to sit and chat at this space. It indeed used to be a convenient place for people to spend some time up to 9 pm till July.

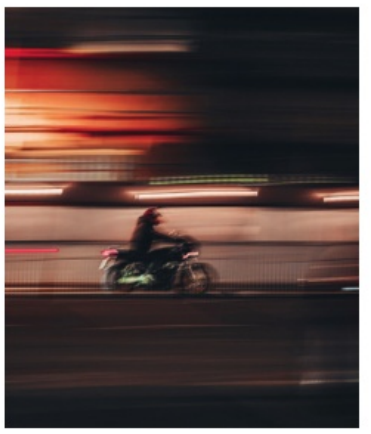
However, not many people are willing to spend time beyond 7 pm at this space anymore as there are no lights. And what is ironic is that many cannot see the Gandhi statue due to the pitch dark around the Gandhi. As part of the development plan, the BBMP had installed lights for people to hang out under the gazebo and also facilitated a colourful automated system but none of them are working as there is no electricity supply.

"It is dark as no light is on. The BMBP spent more than Rs 1 crore to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"The BBMP and Minister for Energy must immediately direct BESCOM to restore electricity to the Gandhi Park. We are celebrating the 76th Independence Day. Is it fair to keep the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the dark?**
> — JM Veerasangaiah, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha

Deadly roads



On weekend where 37 lives were lost to accidents, experts suggest ways to minimise risks to motorists

| Ahna Prakash
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It was a black weekend for the state as in just 24 hours, 37 people lost their lives on the road, said Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic & Road Safety, Karnataka on Monday.

In a tweet, Kumar said, "37 lives lost including 5 deaths near Chitradurga in early morning today, where the car hit the lorry from behind."

He added that the majority of the fatal accidents involved two-wheeler riders. He said that two-wheeler riders should wear helmets to protect themselves. "Among the dead, there are a large number of two-wheeler riders. Car passengers and pedestrians were also killed in the accident. Bike riders and pillion riders should wear helmets for their safety and everyone should be aware while driving at night," said Kumar.

He also added that inexperienced drivers should avoid travelling at night to reduce chances of getting into an accident.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 On the green path

Don't miss the chance to step into The Green Path—Hasiru Thota, where nature's beauty embraces heartfelt connections. This gathering is a celebration of compassionate eco-souls and dedicated organic farmers. Here, connect with food cultivators and experience community joy. Discover handcrafted goods, crafts, veggies, fruits, and groceries with no chemicals and just pure goodness. Don't forget to carry your bags and bottles to enjoy pocket-friendly prices and a sustainable lifestyle. **Where: The Green Path Organic State, opp Mantri Mall Metro Station, Malleswaram; When: Today; 11:30 am onwards and on weekends 7 am–12 noon**

02 Revolution time

Get your seats for 'Gagan Damama Bajyo', a biography of the legend Bhagat Singh, this Independence Day. The play is presented by Theatrenama and directed by Piyush Mishra. Get to know the experiences and thoughts of the freedom fighter through this interesting play. **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Today; 7:30 pm**

03 Odissi special

Naman, the Odissi dance festival is back with its 12th edition. The festival aims to bring together and showcase varied styles and schools of Odissi dance. It pays rich tributes to great gurus and pioneers of Odissi dance for their invaluable contributions to the elegant art.

Where: ADA Rangamandira, opp Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; When: Sunday, August 27; 5:30 pm

Years of freedom

A vendor selling flags in front of Vidhana Soudha

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Stride by stride...

Bengalurean traces Indian map by walking 73 km almost without pause; says he had to truly navigate through various sections of Bengaluru

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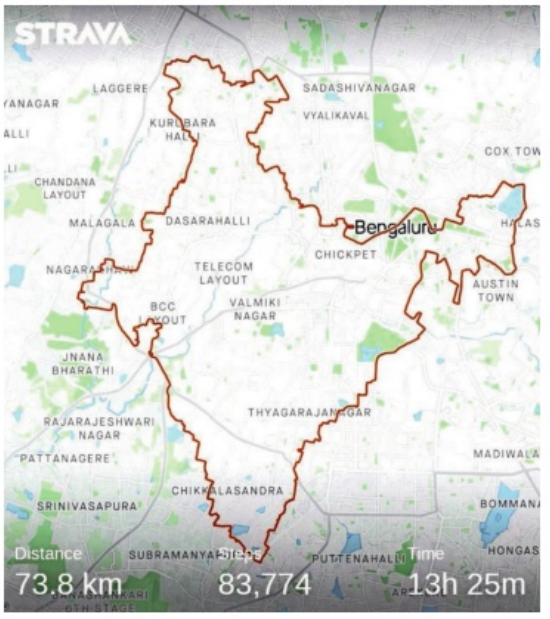
For many, sketching an Indian map with a pencil or pen could pose a challenge. Imagine tracing the same map by walking and plotting. This is precisely what a 51-year-old Bengalurean accomplished on Sunday as a tribute to the 76th Independence Day. Meet Vikas Ruparelia, a director at a private company, who embarked on his walking journey at 7:45 am on Sunday, concluding beyond midnight at 12:55 am. During this time, he etched the Indian borders by traversing 73 km almost without pause.

Ruparelia told Bangalore Mirror that he has experience running marathons. "My previous record was 42 km. In the past, I used a cycle to plot maps. Mapping while walking proves to be a feat. I had to navigate through various sections of Bengaluru. Despite being a Bengalurean, I had never truly explored the city like this. It was an ambitious initiative, and while creating the Bharat map, I had a literal Bengaluru Darshan," he said.

The biggest challenge while walking, he said, was to continue the journey without retracing any path, as going back for any reason could disrupt the map's accuracy. "When walking, maintaining a steady course is challenging as you're constantly plotting. This route was planned beforehand, with a GPX file available. In many instances, there were buildings constructed along the intended route. I reside in Hebbal and travelled to Orion Mall. From there, I traversed the city to create the map. This time, I had arranged live tracking for my friends. I never expected people to follow me live and see where I was walking. Surprisingly, many joined me along the route, offering snacks and even juice," he explained.



Vikas Ruparelia had embarked on his walking journey at 7:45 am on Sunday, concluding beyond midnight at 12:55 am; during this time, he etched the Indian borders

For Ruparelia, there were challenges, especially when the weather unexpectedly turned to rain. His initial plan was to start at 6 am, with a few friends joining him. However, some had to drop out.

"I eventually arrived at Orion Mall at 7:45 am, armed with just a power bank and a water bottle, to take up this challenge. Around 4 pm, my power bank drained, and my mobile device's charge was also dwindling. I had to reach out to my brother for an alternative power bank. Mobile charge was crucial for tracking the route, as the app wouldn't function without it, and I wanted to stay connected as I headed towards sunset," he added.

> **"In the past, I used a cycle to plot maps. Mapping while walking proves to be a feat. I had never truly explored the city like this** – Vikas Ruparelia

He also faced the challenge of the app indicating a route near Shantinagar on the map that didn't exist. Arriving at Cubbon Park later in the evening, he encountered gate closures, prompting him to alter his route to maintain the intended map shape. Despite these challenges, he continued walking in the rain. Navigating city streets at night proved difficult due to the darkness, and he encountered instances where dogs chased him. While unexpected rain caught him without a raincoat, he held onto a flag that proved invaluable. Many people enthusiastically chanted 'Jai Hind' and 'Vande Mataram' as he passed.

Upon concluding his walk at the starting point (near the Sandal Soap Factory), Ruparelia realised he had covered 73 km. He intends to take up the challenge again next year and complete the intended distance with the experience gained.

KAUSHIK JN

A student waves the Tricolour in front of the rangoli at the Vasavi Jnana Peetha College

Rangoli to depict love for motherland

Monday will remain as a memorable day for more than 300 students of Vasavi Jnana Peetha First Grade College of Vijayanagar. All of them had an opportunity to upload selfies with the Tricolour. Arrangements were made to do a rangoli of the Tricolour at the college premises.

Around 60 students including faculty members worked for more than four hours to do the tricolor spreading over 40x50 sq ft. Over 90 kg of rangoli powder and 40 kg of flowers were used to make the rangoli.

"All these years, we used to felicitate ex-servicemen on the occasion of Independence Day. This is the first time we organised making rangoli tricolour which will enable the students to have affection and love toward their mother land," said Vasavi Group of Educational Institutions secretary DR Vijaya Sarathi.

PU College Principal Rachana S has said the students have participated in making rangoli Tricolour with dedication. "Making of the rangoli began at 7 am and was completed in four hours."

Bhoomika G, a student, said she would cherish the making of the rangoli for a long time. Pavan S, a B.Com student, he was proud to be part of the team that did the rangoli.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

Unwanted visitor appears at I-Day flower show

NWPP bags are in the banned list, but they are everywhere as they are mistaken for cloth bags

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Despite all the work to keep plastic out of the ongoing Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh, one banned item has managed to sneak it. Included in the list of banned products in the state was nonwoven polypropylene (NWPP) bags, commonly called Chinese jute bags. Masquerading as cloth bags, NWPP bags are in rampant use at the show.

These bags are being handed over by vendors, defeating the Horticulture Department's efforts of making the I-Day flower show the most eco-friendly event so far.

"We are not using plastic items as we read about the ban on plastic at the flower show in newspapers. We are carrying reusable water bottles and also asked the shop owners for cloth bags," said a visitor, pointing to the NWPP bag she was holding.

Volunteer groups say the state of banned plastic use was much better during the Republic Day flower show this year as gate checks were done better then. "Quite a few visitors can be seen carrying banned NWPP bags, which they believe are cloth bags. Unlike the January show when NWPP stocks were seized at the gate checks as vendors arrived, this time marshals came on duty after vendors occupied stalls so the challenge to weed it out far higher," said Odette Katrak, Co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a not-for-profit aiding the Horticulture department in keeping the garden litter free during the event.

They also highlight the lack of awareness due to unclear guidelines by the Horticulture Department to the vendors.

A visitor carrying at NWPP bag thinking it is a cloth bag

"The instruction sheet on dos and don'ts shared with vendors did not include the NWPP ban. But if the checking at the gate were effective and vendors' stocks were thoroughly checked since day one, this volume of banned items would not be circulating. Gate checks during the Republic Day event were much stricter," said another volunteer.

According to Sunitha Jayaram, program director, Saahas, while BBMP marshals are spotting the defaulters and penalising them for keeping and distributing banned items, the number of on-ground staff is too little to manage hundreds of people walking in every day.

"The amount of NWPP over the first few days was much more. After the marshals were deployed, it went down. However, manning a high number of stalls and vendors is proving to be difficult with limited manpower. Gate checks could have been stricter too. In some cases, we realised even vendors were not aware of banned items," said Jayaram.

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Folks to lose grounds

Government to proceed with delayed PRR project; citizens who constructed houses on 'notified land' likely to not get compensation for their buildings

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The Peripheral Ring Road is set to begin near the NICE Road junction on the Nelamangala highway; it will connect the northeast, east, and southwest parts of Bengaluru

With the Congress government now showing renewed interest in taking up the long-delayed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, those who have already built homes on the notified land are set for trouble. Sources indicate that those who constructed houses after 2007 will not only lose their land but also won't receive compensation for the buildings, being eligible for land compensation only.

The project, despite the initial land acquisition notification in 2007, has not been implemented even after 15 years. This delay has caused significant challenges for individuals and families who invested in plots and built buildings in the areas marked for land acquisition.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) officials have stated that compensation will only be provided for buildings constructed before the 2007 notification. Unfortunately, there is no provision for compensating buildings constructed after the notification.

Consequently, thousands of people who invested in houses and buildings on loans in the affected areas are facing hardship, as these structures will be demolished once the ring road construction begins. Due to the delay in taking up this project, many landowners have been demanding the government drop the project as they are in a dilemma of neither developing the property nor selling it.

The Peripheral Ring Road will span 74 km, connecting Hosur Road via Old Madras Road to Tumkur Road. However, the acquisition process for the required 1,810 acres of land has not yet begun, leaving landowners uncertain and unable to use or sell their properties.

A BDA official stated, "To proceed with the project, an exact survey needs to be conducted in the villages to determine the number of plots and buildings along the route of the road. The survey will also identify how many houses were constructed before and after the 2007 notification, and a list of eligible compensation recipients will be compiled. As of now, those who built houses after the 2007 notification will only receive compensation for the plot."

The estimated cost for the construction of the PRR has escalated to a staggering Rs 25,000 crore, and the plan is to undertake the project through a public-private partnership. The road will be an 8-lane-wide structure, accompanied by a service road. It will feature cloverleaf-type junctions, flyovers, railway flyovers, and railway underbridges as part of the ambitious project.

> **"To proceed with the project, an exact survey needs to be conducted in the village to determine the number of plots and buildings** – a BDA official

The PRR was initially proposed by SM Krishna during his tenure as Chief Minister, with hopes that the road work would be completed within a few years.

However, subsequent Chief Ministers took office, and the PRR remained stagnant. The previous BJP government had also given the green signal for this ambitious project. It was decided that, based on Supreme Court guidelines, farmers who relinquish their land will be offered the old land rates, with further negotiations to follow.

Completing all the formalities is expected to take at least six months, and starting the work after receiving a work order requires an additional year. Due to the delays, the project cost has significantly increased, with current estimations exceeding Rs 25,000 crore, out of which Rs 15,475 crore are needed for land acquisition alone.

The 74-km PRR will connect the northeast, east, and southwest parts of Bengaluru. Originally proposed to acquire 1,810 acres, changes in the design necessitated an additional 750 acres of land. Land acquisition will commence once the government grants approval.

The PRR is essential to decongest the Outer Ring Road, which currently serves as a by-pass for the city, accommodating more than 10,000 trucks. The PRR is set to begin near the NICE Road junction on the Nelamangala highway.

What's up with ward meetings?

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File photo of a ward committee meeting, interaction with RWA at Mahadevapura BBMP Zonal Office

Ward Committee meetings have come to a halt since the model code of conduct (MCC) was introduced before the elections, say residents and civic activists. Lalithamba BV, a member of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), said that they have also approached the joint commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and are continuously following up on the issue.

She noted that, except in the Mahadevapura zone, ward committee meetings are not being held elsewhere. Vishnu Reddy, a regular attendee of ward committee meetings, said that in wards 115 and 116, that is, Bellandur and Doddakanahalli, which fall in the Mahadevapura zone, the ward committee meetings have been conducted for the past few weeks. He added that the meetings should be conducted regularly in order for the public to consider them a reliable forum for them to bring their complaints to.

"The current problem is that the meetings rarely happen, and even if they do, the notice informing people regarding the same is not given out to a larger portion of the public, leaving them unaware," he said.

Ward committees in the city were witnessing a gradual increase in their popularity and had turned out to be consistent in the past six months before the elections, a study undertaken by Janaagraha, a Bengaluru-based NGO, revealed. It had found that between September and December last year, out of the 1,864 ward committee meetings that were mandated as per law, the city's civic body conducted 1,553 meetings.

Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga, a collaboration of civic organisations from 11 cities across the state, had also demanded that political parties take up the matter of running these forums effectively.

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Repair it
Yelahanka

The badly damaged footpath in front of the Rail Wheel Factory bus stop in Yelahanka requires immediate repair.

Blocked paths
Jayanagar

Pending work in Jayanagar has been causing inconvenience for a month. The area near Bangalore International School is experiencing road blockages.

No safe walk
Sankey Road

After the Windsor Manor Bridge underpass, an iron girder is lying on the footpath of Sankey Road, creating a hazardous situation with continuous traffic movement throughout the year.

Police asks BBMP official to be part of blaze probe

The Halasuru gate police sent a notice to BBMP Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) BS Prahlad on Monday requesting his help with the probe related to the fire incident in the BBMP office.

Three BBMP employees were detained on August 12 and interrogated for almost five hours before being released on station bail. Ananda, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Swamy, AEE, and Suresh Kumar, a member of the D group, were the detained. Prahlad submitted the complaint in order to have the accident investigated. The police have also taken testimony from people receiving medical attention at a public hospital.

On the other hand, Prahlad was chosen as the investigating officer after BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath ordered an internal technical inquiry (ITE). ITE started its investigation on August 12.

The police presented Prahlad with a notice asking him to participate with the investigation, according to BBMP sources.

The three BBMP employees, according to sources in the civic agency, were listed in the FIR after they escaped unharmed. They were questioned about the test's methodology, their whereabouts at the time, and how they managed to flee without suffering any burns. Prahlad will also interrogate them.

-BMB

NEP set to be scrapped next year

BangaloreMirror

Will K'taka scrap NEP? As V-Cs stay mum, students in limbo

BM's report on Aug 1 about V-Cs not having made their stance on NEP clear

The State Government has, at last, made the decision to cancel the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Monday that the NEP, introduced by the previous BJP government, would be completely discarded starting from the next academic year. "NEP must be eliminated after necessary preparations have been made. The academic year had already commenced by the time election results were announced and the government was formed," stated Siddaramaiah. He also said NEP was continued this year to prevent disruption for students mid-year. **-BMB**

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It's raining jobs: City welcoming freshers with open arms

Survey shows Bengaluru has highest percentage of freshers' hiring in July to Dec '23; manufacturing sector is leading industry

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A time comes when many fresh graduates struggle to find secure jobs and are confused about a suitable profession. A recent survey conducted to analyse the job market for freshers has shed light on a promising trend. Bengaluru, known to be India's tech capital, emerges as a ray of hope for aspiring job seekers. It has recorded the highest percentage of freshers hiring during July-December 2023.

TeamLease EdTech, a learning and employability solutions provider, has unveiled a significant upswing in freshers' hiring across the nation. The comprehensive "Career Outlook Report half yearly (July-December 2023), HY2, 2023, showcased that overall there is an increase of 3% in HY2 of 2023 vs HY1(January to June of 2023). The percentage reported was 65% in HY2 as compared to 62% in HY1 of freshers hiring in India. The sustained growth has implied an optimistic job market in the coming months, especially for freshers.

According to the survey, the top 3 cities that intend to hire freshers during July-December, 2023 are Bengaluru with 65 per cent intent, followed by Mumbai with 61 per cent and Chennai with 47 per cent.

The top three industries that intend to hire degree apprentices during July-December, 2023 were manufacturing at 12 per cent followed by engineering and infrastructure at 10 per cent and power and energy at seven per cent.

Some in-demand courses that freshers can undertake to increase their employability include certification courses in Digital Marketing, Business Communication, Data Science, Blockchain and PG programs in AI and ML

In-demand courses, Information Technology played a crucial role in Bengaluru's hiring intent. As a Data centre technician, Bengaluru had 52% hiring intent in comparison to other states like Pune at 48% and Coimbatore at 42%. Next under, Artificial Intelligence Engineer Masters Program, Bengaluru has 56% hiring interns followed by Hyderabad at 52% and Delhi at 47%.

Bengaluru saw a hiring intent in the manufacturing industry with 55% in engineer in training certification course and 41% in certification course in quality analyst.

Neeti Sharma, Co-Founder and President, Teamlease Edtech said, "Bengaluru has always been a hub for startups, especially in the tech space and this trend is likely to continue in 2023 and beyond. Our bi-annual report on Career Outlook indicates that Bengaluru leads on intent to hire freshers at 65% with industries such as E-commerce, Technology Start-up, Telecom and Engineering & Infrastructure being at the forefront of fresher hiring. The report spotlights a significant decline in hiring intent in the Information Technology sector, affecting overall sentiment, especially in Bangalore, where the intent to hire freshers dropped by 10% compared to Jan-June 2023 HY1 which was at 75%. (43%), and Application Engineer (55%).These insights present an opportunity for Higher Education Institutes to refine curricula, introduce new courses, and foster skill-building opportunities.

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Metro 'construction jolt' to buildings near Doddanekundi

Experts call for structural integrity testing of buildings near Metro constructions

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Residents living around the Doddanekundi railway over-bridge have complained of experiencing jerks within their buildings since metro construction in the area began. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is now under scrutiny as residents question the measures taken to safeguard their properties during the ongoing construction.

Ongoing construction at Doddanekundi falls on the Blue Line of the ORR-Airport Metro Line

> **"The High Court has directed that construction activities should not be done between 10 pm to 6 am**
>
> —Rajkumar Dugar, founder of C4C

Suresh Menon, a resident in the area said that his apartment is only 10-20 meters away from the metro construction site and hence experiences a high intensity of jerks. "Many of the buildings in the area are also pretty old, within the range of 18-20 years. If there is any damage to our properties, who will be held accountable?" he said. His attempt to register a complaint via email to the BMRCL helpline faced a setback as the email bounced back, highlighting potential communication hurdles.

The ongoing construction falls on the Blue Line or ORR-Airport Metro Line which consists of two sections - Phase-2A (Silkboard to KR Puram) and Phase-2B (KR Puram to Airport). The line is 58.19 km long and connects the Central Silk Board with the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). The resident added that there are many other apartments in the vicinity that are experiencing similar fears, despite being relatively far from the construction site.

Ashwin Mahesh, an urbanist, explained that each building is required to obtain a structural integrity certificate based on its architectural design during the time of approval. "The question to ask is if the house is being affected by the construction or if it is weak on its own. Therefore, the metro should, for any property which is at a certain distance from the metro construction, carry out the structural integrity testing to make sure there is no damage caused. It should become a part of the project itself," he said. He added that the audits must be conducted by a third party.

Along with this, Menon alleged that construction work takes place all night, not allowing the residents in the area to get a good night's sleep. Rajkumar Dugar, founder of C4C, said that the High Court has directed that construction activities should not be done between 10 pm to 6 am. "There are laws in place that prohibit noises which have the potential to affect sleep, especially in residential areas," he said, adding that the issue can be solved with proper enforcement from authorities and consistent oversight.

BBMP's fake plastic promise

5 days after issuing circular banning plastic bottles at its events, guess what water was being given in at Palike event?

Plastic water bottles at the BBMP meeting on Sunday

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environmentalists and social activists were happy with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner issued a circular on August 9 banning the usage of single-use plastic during the meetings and functions. However, their joy was short-lived.

Within five days of issuing the circular, the ban on single-use plastic was violated by a caterer in the presence of BBMP Chief Commissioner, Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban at a meeting held at Manekshaw Parade Ground on Sunday. Drinking water was being supplied in plastic bottles by the caterer to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner and the BBMP Chief Commissioner.

According to a video clip available with Bangalore Mirror, neither the BBMP Chief Commissioner nor the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner objected to this.

Some environmentalists expressed concern over the violation of the ban. Nagesh Aras, an environmentalist, said that the government must roll out the ban on SUP bottles systematically. "It is not sufficient to issue a circular, as many people will continue to ignore that circular with impunity. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) should take exemplary actions against the violators to enforce the ban," said Nagesh Aras.

He said the KSPCB has to contact all manufacturers, distributors, and dealers of packaged water in the state, and ask them to stop manufacturing and supplying small water bottles.

"The KSPCB has to enforce the ban for the next few quarters, by monitoring all godowns, transport vehicles, and professional bulk users, such as kalyana mantapas, event halls, hotels, caterers, etc. The monitoring may be relaxed after a few months, as people get used to the ban. Punish the violators severely under the Environment Protection Act. In fact, if government departments are found to violate the ban, the head of the department is personally liable for punishment under Section 17(1) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986," he said.

Shobha Bhat of Usiru Foundation said it was good that the BBMP Chief Commissioner had issued one more circular to stop using single-use plastic.

Neither BBMP chief, nor Dy Commissioner B'luru urban who were at the meeting could object to water being supplied in plastic bottles

"What is the action on implementation he has taken is the question? Again everything on paper? The BBMP itself has to follow the rules and be a model to people for following the ban on single-use plastic," said Bhat.

Nivedita Sunkad, managing trustee of I Care RR Nagar, said that the plastic ban is the biggest challenge for the BBMP to implement.

"Marriage halls and meetings organised by the government must implement the ban on usage of single-use plastic. Every time we broach the subject ... One excuse is 'they find their way through neighbouring states'," said Sunkad.

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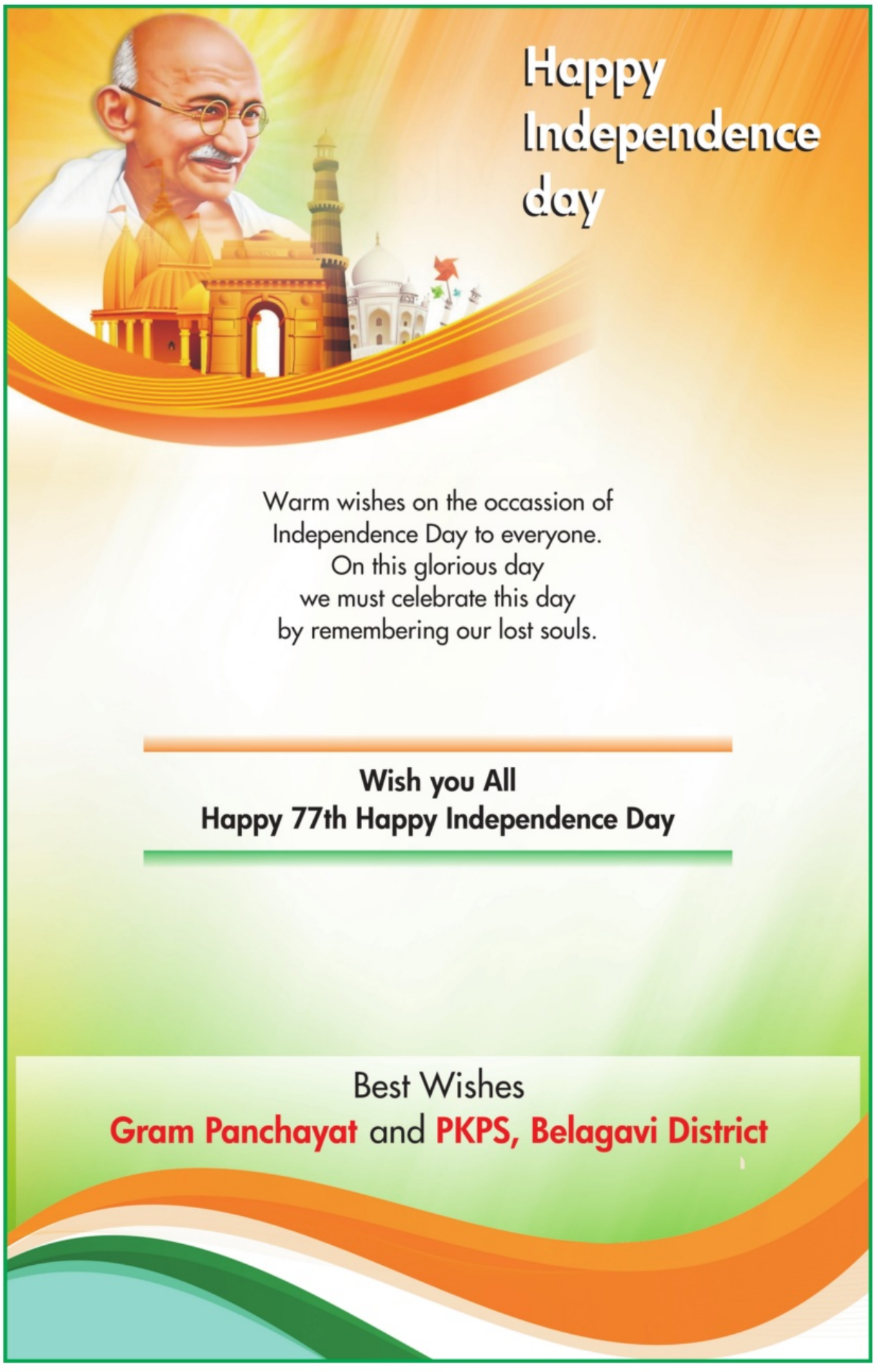
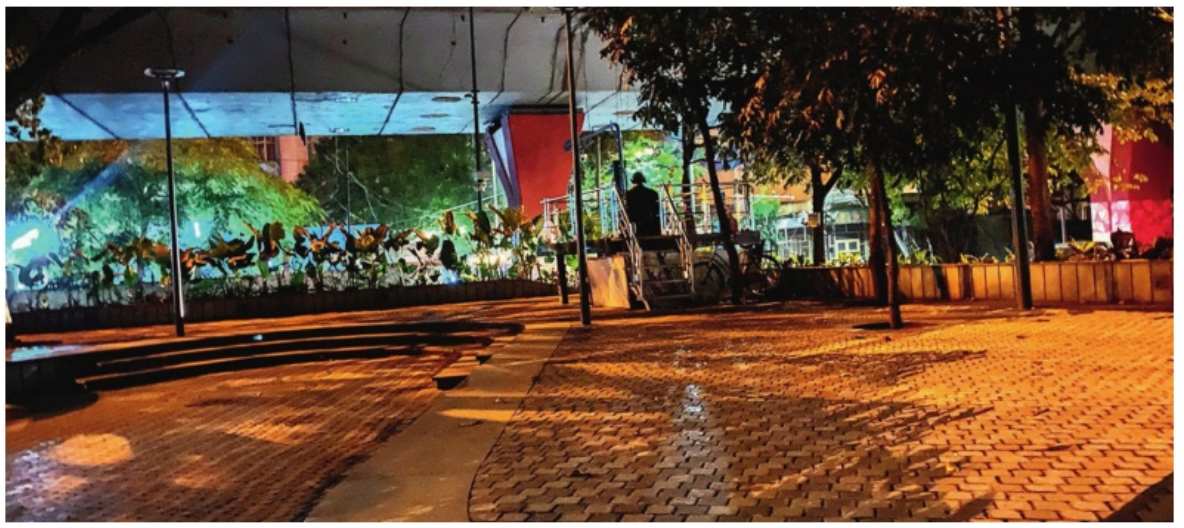


BBMP motto: Spend a lot, forget to maintain



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

renovate or upgrade the Gandhi Park. What is the use of spending such a huge amount for a park that has no electricity?'' asks Murthy K, a pedestrian.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for being apathetic towards the maintenance of the park, HM Venkatesh, a social activist, opined that the BBMP authorities have forgotten the existence of the Gandhi Park after facilitating the release of money to the contractor. "The BBMP does not bother whether or not the Gandhi Park is being maintained properly. They spent public money to develop the park and forgot about it so soon,'' said Venkatesh.

Emphasising that there was no need for the BBMP to have spent tax-payers' money on the park that was in a good condition, Ashok K, an auto rickshaw driver, also said that the lack of electricity to the park is an insult to the Father of the Nation. "It is shocking to know that Gandhi Park has had no electricity for more than 15 days,'' he said.

Blaming the BBMP for negligence, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha working president JM Veerasangaiah described the BBMP keeping the Mahatma Gandhi statue in dark as a national shame. "The BBMP and Minister for Energy KJ George must immediately direct the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) to restore electricity to the Gandhi Park. We are celebrating 76th Independence Day on Tuesday. Is it fair to keep the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the dark?'' asks Veerasangaiah.

However, BBMP Superintending Engineer (Projects) Hemalatha said that she would direct the executive engineer to visit the spot and revert to her. "The maintenance of Gandhi Park was given to an agency. I am not aware of the issue of there being no lights here. I will look into it,'' Hemalatha said.

Better analysis of accident-prone areas needed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Sanjeev Dyamannanavar, transport expert, said that instead of stopping people from travelling at night or blaming helmetless drivers for the increasing number of fatal accidents, the cops should also work on asking BBMP to install street lights and should make better use of technology.

"The police should first use the AI camera technology to study the pattern in the accidents that are happening. Thirty-seven deaths in one day is a big number, one can imagine how many people must have died in one month. If the traffic police record the commuters and analyse the road user behavior they can come up with better solutions. They did a good job with Bengaluru Mysuru highway. On the highway, deaths were being reported daily, so the traffic police analysed the data and came up with scientific solutions on how to make the stretch safer. Simply saying that one should not travel at night is not enough, because people have emergencies and work that they can't wait till the morning," he said.

Dyamannavar opined that police should detain people who are involved in violation of traffic rules. "If policemen start catching people who are speeding and detain them for some hours, people will get scared. When it comes to fines, people still tend to speed and violate laws but if they detain someone for say six hours, then that person might not speed again. They would realise that it can happen next time as well, and they might not reach their destination on time," he opined.

He gave the example of the UK, where those who violate traffic rules are made to assist traffic police for a day. "We can do the same. If someone is speeding or jumping a signal, they can be caught and made to assist the traffic police on a busy junction for a day and then they might understand how dangerous it is when they don't follow rules and how difficult it is to ensure safe movement of traffic," he added.

Experts also highlight that the cops should be working with civic agencies to ensure that street lights and reflectors on the roads are properly installed.

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I, PAVITRA W/o. Sameer Kulkarni, residing at No. 603, 6th Floor, Aarush Arya Apartment, Channasandra, R.R Nagar, Bangalore-560098, declaring that PAVITRA, PAVITRA A DESHPANDE and PAVITRA DESHPANDE pertains to one and the same person and its refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 11.08.2023 sworn before notary S.R Thulasikrishna, Bangalore.

I, Srinivas Auradkar S/o Krishnakumar Auradkar R/o #4 Soundarya Kamakshi, Flat No. B105, Magadi Road, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru-560079, Karnataka, have changed my name to Sriniivas Auradkar

I Savita Kumari W/O, Papu Rai R/o B1104, Brigade Metropolis, Garudacharyapalya, Bangalore - 560048 have changed my name to Sabita Rai .

I, Arun Vijay, R/O A001 Concorde Manhattans, Neeladri Road, Electronic City 1, Bengaluru -560100 have changed my minor son name from Abram Arka Abraham to Alexander Arka

I, SAMARTH AGASTHYA MANDYA SUBRAMANYA S/o. Subramanya Dindagur Sreekantiah, residing at No. 251, S.V Pragathi, GF 6, Chiranthana, Halage Vederahalli, R.R Nagar, Bangalore-560098, have changed my name as SAMARTH AGASTHYA, vide affidavit dated 14.08.2023 sworn before notary S.R Thulasikrishna, Bangalore.

I Basavaraj Haladappanavar S/O, Shivappa R/o No 44, Ground Floor Sir M Visvesvaraya Road, Surabhi Layout, Yelahanka Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Basavaraj Chittaragi.

I Moiz R/O of 207 Calvin Royal Residency Bohra layout Gottigere Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to Moiz Mansoor Lightwala

I, IRSHAD AHMED KHAZI, R/a,#4/5,1st Floor,4th Cross, Someshwaranagar, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560011. I, have changed my Name to IRSHAD AHMED, S/o. Basheer Ahmed. Vide affidavit dated 14/08/2023, Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, M Thulasamma W/o. N A Suryanarayana Residing at No. 541, Chitkala, 26th Main, Jai Maruthi Nagar, Bangalore-560096 have changed my name to THULASI SURI vide affidavit dated 14.08.2023 Sworn before notary: R. Raghunath Rao, Bangalore

I, Annapureddy Venkataramana R/o No.36, Sai layout, Attibele, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru 562107 have changed my name to Venkataramana affidavit Dt.14/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Jalari Dillemma R/a 16th A Cross, Church Rd, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post B'lore-560103, have changed my name to J. Diviksha vide affidavit dt 14.08.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

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I Sandeep S/o Om Parkash R/o E0038,Brigade Golden Triangle, katamanallur cross, Hoskote Bengaluru, Karnataka 560049 have changed my name to Sandeep Mannan.

I, MANOJ KUMAR BHANDARI KARDAK S/o Balakrishna Bhandari Kardak. residing at No. 41, Duo Enclave Layout, Kodichikkanaalli, Bangalore 560076, have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR BHANDARY KADEGUNDYA, vide affidavit dated 10.08.2023, sworn before notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore.

I Susheela W/O, Muniraju R/o N0-132/2,near Maramma Temple,amruthahalli,bengaluru-560092 have changed my name to Susheela Muniraju.

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 # Adani probe: SEBI needs 15 days
SEBI requested the Supreme Court to grant 15 more days to conclude its investigation into the Adani-Hindenburg matter

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Himachal floods unleash devastation

9 missing as temple in Shimla caves in; 10 buried alive in Solan landslide

(1) A portion of the Kalka-Shimla railway track washed away due to heavy rains, near Shimla, Monday; (2) A security personnel carries the belongings of a villager from the site of a landslide after heavy rains at Jadon village in Solan district (3) Vehicles stuck in sludge following waterlogging due to the overflowing Beas river, in Mandi

#Shimla

At least 41 people were killed and 13 went missing on Monday owing to heavy rainfall that triggered state-wide flash floods and landslides, officials said. The deceased included 10 in state capital Shimla in two landslide incidents, including the caving in of a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Nine people are reported to be missing and the search operation is underway. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu took stock of the situation in the landslide-hit Summer Hill area where the temple caved in, and directed the officials to speed up the rescue operation.

The Chief Minister told the media that there was a gathering at the Lord Shiva temple at the time of the disaster owing to the holy month of Shravan. He said many people are feared to be caught under the debris due to heavy landslide. The work of removing the debris in search of people is underway. Sukhu said the entire state is dealing with a grim situation as cloudbursts and landslides hit many parts, resulting in heavy loss of life and property.

"I pray for those killed and want to assure the affected families that the government stands with them in this hour of calamity. All affected families would be provided all possible help by the government," the Chief Minister said. Sukhu said the state has been dealing with the aftermath of the destruction caused due to incessant rains since July 7.

The recent spate of rains has once again brought significant challenges as heavy loss to life and property is being registered. The Chief Minister feared the toll could increase further as many people are still caught up in the debris in various parts of the state. He said the government is constantly monitoring the situation and doing its best to safely evacuate the stranded people.

The Chief Minister said he has been in touch with the Deputy Commissioners of all districts and is taking constant updates about the situation and the ongoing relief and rescue works. Sukhu said all the district administrators and officials concerned have been instructed to remain alert as the water level of the rivers in the state has been rising.

He advised people to stay away from rivers and drains. After taking stock of the relief and rescue work in Summer Hill, Sukhu reached Fagli where five people lost their lives due to a landslide while five others were rescued. In another natural disaster, 10 persons were buried alive in the Kandaghat area of Solan district after a cloudburst that triggered a flash flood and landslides.

The disaster occurred at around 1.30 a.m. on Monday at Jadon village in Dhawla sub-tehsil, some 45 km from the state capital. The rainfall havoc has caused significant damage to infrastructure and affected the lives of many people in the hill state.

In Mandi district, 14 people died due to rain-related disasters. Four people are missing. Two houses and a cowshed were damaged at Majhvar village, where two persons are reported to be missing.

The Chief Minister said the first priority of the government is to ensure that the problems being faced by the people at this hour of distress are minimised. "The Independence Day parade has been scaled down. This will make sure that maximum number of rescue forces is engaged in relief and rescue operations on a war-footing." Solan, Shimla, Mandi and Hamirpur districts have been the worst hit by the rains. The CMdirected the officials to extend full help to the affected people, and said that the trees which are posing danger to roads and buildings should be identified and the report should submitted to him by Tuesday. – IANS

Prez stresses on economic empowerment of women

#New Delhi

Noting that economic empowerment of women strengthens their position in family and society, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday wished women in the country to overcome challenges with courage and move ahead in life.

In her address to the nation on the eve of the 77th Independence Day, the President said women are contributing extensively in every field of development and service to the country and are enhancing the nation's pride.

"Today our women have made their special place in many such fields in which their participation was unimaginable a few decades ago," she said.

Highlighting the role of women freedom fighters such as Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Baruah, Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Ammu Swaminathan, Rama Devi, Aruna Asaf Ali and Sucheta Kriplani, Murmu said they have set inspiring ideals for all future generations of women to serve the nation and the society with self-confidence.

"I am happy to note that the economic empowerment of women is being given special focus in our country. Economic empowerment strengthens the position of women in the family and society.

"I urge all fellow citizens to give priority to women empowerment. I would like our sisters and daughters to overcome challenges with courage and move ahead in life. Development of women was among the ideals of our freedom struggle," she said.

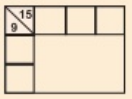
India is the mother of democracy and since ancient times it had democratic institutions functioning at the grassroots, the President said, but long years of colonial rule wiped them out. – IANS

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

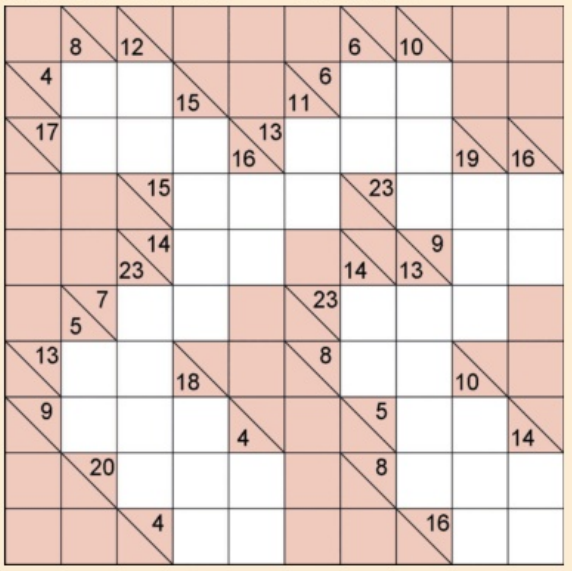
The sum of what five consecutive integers is 50?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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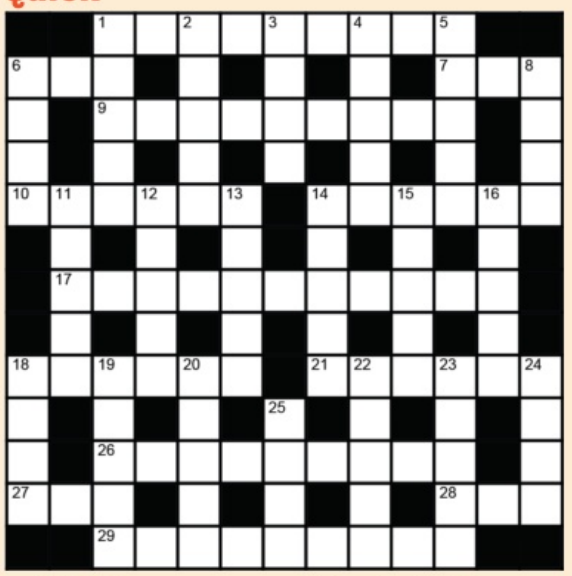


ACROSS

1 Bangalore's largest lake (9)
6 Diameter, in short? (3)
7 Possess or have (3)
9 Recapitulating (7,2)
10 Intones, warbles or yodels (6)
14 Involuntary muscular contractions (6)
17 Disinterested or unconcerned (11)
18 Afternoon nap (6)
21 Lucky charm (6)
26 Fictional land in Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda"? (9)
27 Court (3)
28 Energy (3)
29 In a uncivil and uncouth manner, in a way? (9)

DOWN

1 Port and city in Iraq (5)
2 Boundary line (5)
3 WWII group (4)
4 Excavated or unearthed? (3,2)
5 ___ in : persuades to take part? (5)
6 Platter (4)
8 Captures or arrests (4)
11 Caribbean Republic (5)
12 Knobs on roots or branches (5)
13 Bulgarian capital (5)
14 It's produced in a boiler (5)
15 States (5)
16 Slogan (5)
18 Killed (4)
19 Swashbuckler Flynn (5)
20 Chuck (5)
22 Kinswomen (5)
23 Insane (5)
24 Short journey (4)
25 Eye complaint (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS H

GVEEK UR GH MGT SVW QJVSH HZZHSQR QT QGHUJ SVLRHR.

Linemaro

That' s a nice shirt. Can I talk you out of it?

Mindchow

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist

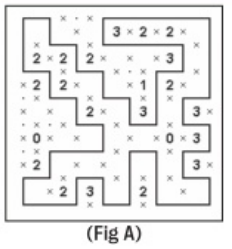
Joke of the day

Dentists make money off people with bad teeth. Why should I trust the toothpaste they recommend?

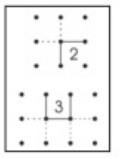
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



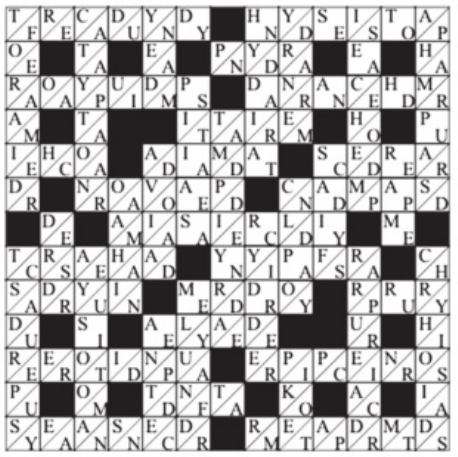
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

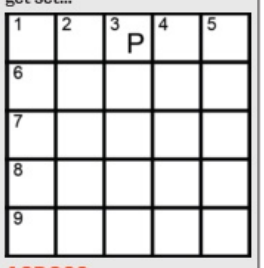
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Papal; 6 Heirs;
7 Can go; 8 Toots;
9 To Hot

DOWN

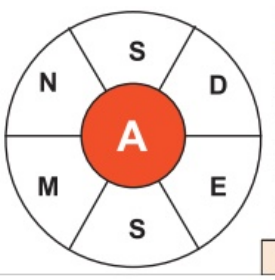
1 Coats; 2 To hop;
3 To Pin; 4 Gator;
5 Hales

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?

heptagon, triangle, hexagon, cube, pentagon

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

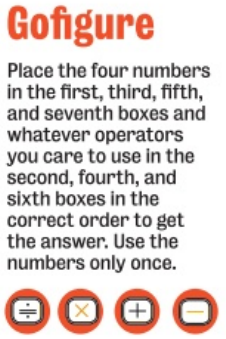
SudokuChallenge

9				3				7
			8	9	2			
	4		1		6		9	
	9	5				3	4	
4	1						7	5
	7	6				9	2	
	8		7		9		5	
			3	2	1			
7				8				2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



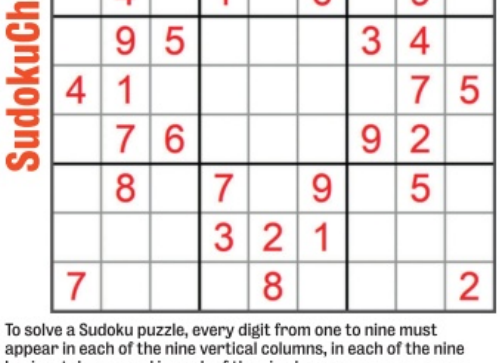
Easy = 3
2 3 4 6

Medium = 28
1 1 3 9

Hard = 47
3 5 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



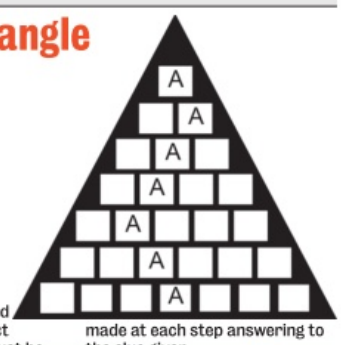
Differences: 1. Nose is different. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Number is different. 4. Pennant is missing. 5. Overhang is smaller. 6. Arm is bent.

Riddler

What James Bond Movie Titles do the following represent?
1) Crystals of C R Ever Ever Ever Ever.
2) Female Sheep reincarnated just once.
3) AuDigit

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Bye!
3 Deserter
4 Evaluate
5 Provide food
6 Fiery bullet
7 Off the mark



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

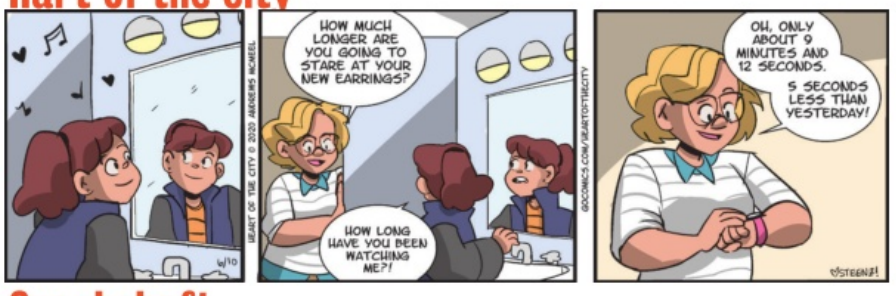
WHATCHA DOING, JERKYMIAH?
I'M DOING A CROSSWORD PUZZLE, POKEY
5-27
GOLLY, JERKYMIAH MUST KNOW A LOT OF CROSS WORDS TO FILL IN ALL THOSE BLANK SPACES
Carson

Bizarrotrip

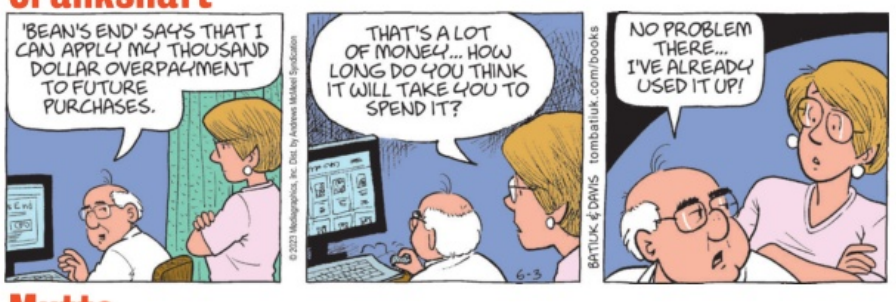
Diamond Lil

MY DATE STOOD ME UP... AGAIN!
THAT MAKES 18 TIMES IN A ROW!
ARE YOU BEGINNING TO DETECT A PATTERN?
WHAT, LIKE PLAID?
www.creators.com
©2023 creators.com 6/7

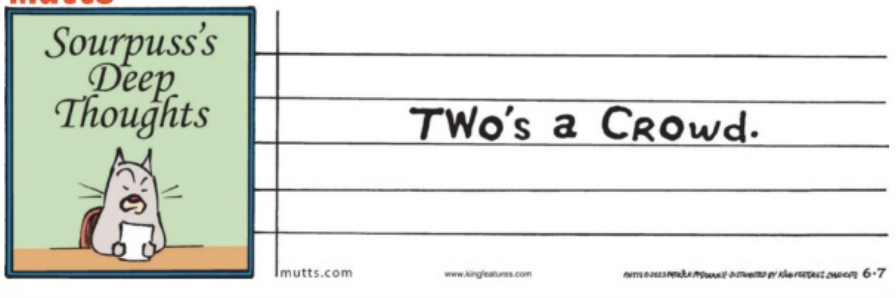
Hart of the city


HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO STARE AT YOUR NEW EARRINGS?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING ME?!
OH, ONLY ABOUT 9 MINUTES AND 12 SECONDS.
5 SECONDS LESS THAN YESTERDAY!
STEENJ!

Crankshaft


'BEAN'S END' SAYS THAT I CAN APPLY MY THOUSAND DOLLAR OVERPAYMENT TO FUTURE PURCHASES.
THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY... HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE YOU TO SPEND IT?
NO PROBLEM THERE... I'VE ALREADY USED IT UP!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today projects which were stopped without a reason, may start automatically. You may be satisfied at work. You may plan for a short work related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your internal strength. Your elders may show you the right path, which may help you to achieve your goals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel dull; you may also face health issues. It is advised to keep your mind cool. Read documents carefully before signature. You may face difficulty to recover your money. You are also advised to avoid going for adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in depth study to get success. Natives related to exploration, occult and research are likely to perform their best.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be busy at home. You may buy some artifacts or creative stuff to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. You may also invest in properties and other fixed assets. You are likely to enjoy your romantic moments with the spouse, which may increase emotional relationships. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel happy. Old health issues related to elders may be cured. Money which was stuck, may be recovered now, which may increase the liquidity in the business. People who are in a job may change their job to seek a promotion. Job seekers may get a job with the help of any friend's reference. Natives who are working in state related work are likely to get benefits.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may prefer gaining knowledge; you may understand the value of intellectual assets. Sometimes you may control your short temperedness, which may help you to perform your task smoothly. There may be some chances for smooth earning, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. You are also advised to avoid speculation in the work. You are likely to spend money for a loved one. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull. You may not be able to sustain in the current situation. You may make silly mistakes, which may affect your confidence level. Your working efficiency may slow down, which may affect your day to day work. Your projects are likely to be delayed, it may affect your professional life. Before taking any important decision, you are advised to take advice from your elders.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be energetic; you may be more focused, which may speed up your current task. Your subordinates may help you to start a new project, which may give you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of jobs.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. You may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. Love birds are likely to get some support from their family members for marriage. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be relaxed after a messy situation. Your inner strength may help you to implement some difficult decisions in parental business, which may grow it. You may help needy people around, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

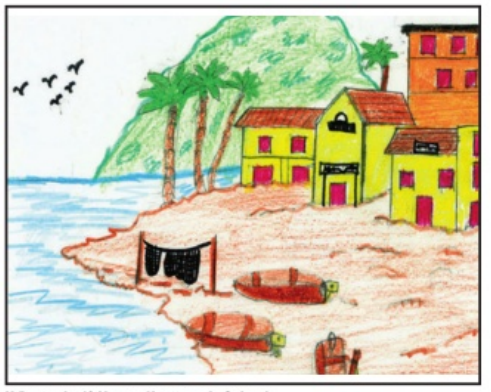
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel dull; your health may not be good. You may also have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone your important investments in the business or real estate. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You should avoid long distance travelling also. You may do some meditation, it will be helpful in sound sleep.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today's blessing from elders' may make you happy; your investments may give you profits. Loses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest for the kid's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may enjoy your work; you may get some promotion after your hard work. You are likely to help some needy person; your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired; due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family get together. Your parent's health may recover.

KIDZONE

Gowri Darshan Bhatta, 10 years, BASIS School, Austin, Texas, USA



K Ramesh, 12 Years, Kumaran's School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE
Happy is he who can trace effects to their causes.

SOLVE IN 1M
x+(x+1)+(x+2)+(x+3)+(x+4)=50
5x+10=50
5x=40
x=8

RIDDLER
1) Diamonds Are Forever
Diamonds, Four x Ever),
2) You Only Live Twice
(Female Sheep = Ewe),
3) Goldfinger (Au is symbol for Gold and fingers are digits)

FAST FIVE

A	P	P	A	L
S	H	I	R	E
C	O	N	G	A
O	T	T	O	S
T	O	O	T	H

STRIKE OUT

S	E	N	S	E	D	R	E	A	R	M	S			

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
cube: It is a three-dimensional figure. The rest are all two dimensional figures.

BULL'S EYE amen, amend, dame, damn, dean, made, mean, name, named, same, mass, massed, MAONESS, mane, sand, sane, seam,

SUDOKU

9	2	8	5	3	4	1	6	7
1	6	7	8	9	2	5	3	4
5	4	3	1	7	6	2	9	8
8	9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6
4	1	2	9	6	3	8	7	5
3	7	6	4	5	8	9	2	1
2	8	1	7	4	9	6	5	3
6	5	4	3	2	1	7	8	9
7	3	9	6	8	5	4	1	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Ta, Rat, Rate, Cater, Tracer, Erratic.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 – 6 + 2 + 4 = 3
Medium
3 x 9 x 1 + 1 = 28
Hard
5 x 9 + 5 – 3 = 47

LOOP

KAKURO

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Swift cameo... Singer Taylor Swift reportedly will make her Marvel debut in 'Deadpool 3'. The singer/songwriter is likely to make a cameo appearance as Dazzler in the upcoming movie

Body-shamers called out

Huma Qureshi recalls obnoxious behaviour at the start of her career

Huma Qureshi has very successfully made a place for herself in Bollywood with her choices of projects and performances. The actress has often spoken about being body-shamed during her initial days in the industry.

In a recent interview, she opened up about the same and said that people were being really obnoxious to her and she felt the need to call them out. The actress also wished she had this courage and clarity when she started her career in the film industry.

According to her, it was not the right way to treat a 20- year-old girl who was trying to make a career in a new city. Huma also spoke to News18 about doing 'Double XL' with Sonakshi Sinha. According to her, the film has really empowered her. According to her, it is a really important film and the value that the film talks about will stand the test of time.

She also shared that 'Double XL' happened because Sonakshi is a dear friend of hers. She is like a sister. The actress added that the film wouldn't have happened if either of them had said no. For her, Sonakshi is like her brother Saqib Saleem to her. She can get away with anything. According to Huma, they have that bond where it's an actual friendship and they watch out for each other and are not afraid to point out certain truths to each other which only friends and family do. Huma was last seen in 'Tarla' where she essayed the role of late chef Tarla Dalal. ' — ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Working partner

Sandalwood actor Diganth Manchale aka Diganth has taken upon a new role. Impressed by the script of Yedagai Apaghatakke Karana and encouraged by director Samarth B Kadkol's dedication, Diganth has become a working partner for the movie. "I could not say no to Samarth when he narrated the script. Initially, a producer had agreed to bankroll this movie but after he walked out, the director tried his best to get a producer in vain. Finally, I have decided to become a working partner for this movie," says Diganth with a smile.

Diganth spoke of a challenge while playing the lead role. "I play the lead who is left-handed. I had to handle everything with my left hand, which I am not familiar with. I also launched helmets manufactured by a company exclusively for left handed persons," says Diganth, adding that he is grateful to Manjunath Gowda aka Jack Manju for his support.

Samarth said the movie is being bankrolled through crowdfunding. "I am grateful to director-cum-producer Gurudatha Ganiga who agreed to invest money. When we were out of money, we approached our friends and relatives," said Samarth.

Real inspiration

One more software engineer has joined the list of techies to become an actor in Sandalwood. Darshan aka Dhanush MS, an employee of a multinational company, debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with the movie Royal Mech– Life Is Not As Royal As You Think. If all goes as per plan, Royal Mech is expected to hit the silver screen in October.

Dhanush, who hails from Bhadravati, has a basic training in acting under the guidance of actress Rekha Das for a year. Apart from playing the lead, he has also written the script, dialogues, and screenplay for this movie. "An incident during the lockdown when I was working from home made me write the script. I contacted an engineer to fix my laptop. The engineer told me he could come at night as he is working at a food delivery company during the day to earn some money. The engineer's story impressed me and it made me write the script with a bit of improvisation," said Dhanush.

Royal Mech is helmed by two directors – Nagabhushan JH and Dr Jayadeva Hassan. It was shot in Bengaluru and Chikkamagaluru. "I wanted to convey a message to society on the importance of hard work and willpower to become somebody. Royal Mech is about how a youngster working as a food delivery executive, becomes an IAS officer," Dhanush said.

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